Name of BSNL Telecom Circle	Landline/MTNL	Mobile	Broad Band
Bihar	7653	Nil	Nil
Maharashtra	67500	Nil	13348

(c) The current waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 2010 subject to technical feasibility.

Services of BSNL

3520. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non availability of signal properly, the service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are badly affected in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area where such problems are being encountered by BSNL;

(c) whether BSNL is serious in countering such problems to provide better facilities to its subscribers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based cellular mobile service of BSNL is mostly meeting various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its area of operation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

'Wireless-in-Local-Loop' facility

†3521. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in country, especially in Uttar Pradesh where the 'wireless-in-local-loop' facility has been provided;

(b) the number of villages in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh where telecommunication services are not available; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Out of 4,62,159 villages in the country, where Wireless-in-Local-Loop (WLL) facility has been provided, 86,225 villages are in Uttar Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) As per Census 2001, a total of 40,490 inhabited villages remains to be covered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in the country which includes 896 villages in Uttar Pradesh. The remaining villages in the country are likely to be covered with VPT facility by February, 2011 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in progressive manner.

Telephone connection in Rural Areas

†3522. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether difficulties are being faced in getting telephone connection in rural areas and PCO connection at Panchayat level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether telephones sets being provided with new connection are of inferior quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Against the envisaged target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by 2010 under New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99), the present teledensity is 16.54% as on 31.05.2009 as a result of various initiatives of the Government. No difficulties are being faced in providing mobile connections in rural areas, where mobile coverage exists. However, the main reasons for difficulties generally faced in providing wire line and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone connection in rural areas and also PCO connections at Panchayat level are given below :-

(i) Non availability of cable pair in some cases, especially in remote, hilly and thinly populated areas.

(ii) Non availability of WLL signal in some areas.

(iii) Disturbed law and order situation.

(iv) Damage to primary cable by roadways authorities at the time of digging for road widening affecting provision of new connections.

Despite these difficulties, Government is making following corrective measures to provide telephone connections in rural areas :-

(i) In hilly areas, where laying of underground cable is not feasible, overhead lines are erected.

(ii) Where the connection is not possible by laying underground cable or overhead lines, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are installed to make the areas feasible on WLL.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.